ROBERT HENDERSON—IN MEMORIAM

In the death of Robert Henderson on February 16, 1942, American mathematics lost one of its ablest leaders. Those who came into close association with him were deeply impressed not only by his ability but even more by the integrity of his intellect and character; they could not but feel that it was a privilege to know a man of such extraordinary parts.

Mr. Henderson was born in Russell, Ontario, on May 24, 1871. He graduated from the University of Toronto in the Honours School of Mathematics at the head of his class in 1891 and received an appointment as Fellow in Mathematics for the following year. In 1892 the young man entered the Government Insurance Department at Ottawa and by 1896 he had passed the examinations of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain and had become a Fellow. Soon thereafter he entered the employ of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States and transferred his residence to this country. Here he progressed rapidly to the top of the profession and became Actuary in 1911. In 1929 he was made Vice President of the company, which position he held until 1936 when he retired.

While nearly all of the two score papers which he published were concerned with actuarial problems, he never lost his interest in pure mathematics. As early as the meeting of October 1895 he presented a paper to the American Mathematical Society which was published in November of the same year. It is entitled *Moral values* and deals with some fundamental relations between probability and insurance. He was an omnivorous reader and found time to keep up with many of the modern developments of mathematics. In the Annals of Mathematics, volume 24, he has a brief paper entitled *Geodesic lines in Riemann space*, which was stimulated by his interest in the theory of relativity.

Mr. Henderson was prominent in the counsels of the Actuarial Society and served a term as Secretary, four years as Vice President, and two years as President. His contributions to the advancement of theory in the actuarial field were varied in character, but his work on interpolation and graduation and on frequency curves and moments is perhaps the best known.

In the early days of the Society, Professor Emory McClintock, who was its president for the period 1891–1894, made a profound impression on the development of actuarial science in America; Mr. Henderson proved to be a worthy successor. He was the recipient of